
Pre-Reading Discussion: Think about your health care experiences now, as an adult, and also when you were a child. Practice reading these questions aloud. You may answer the questions orally.

NOW (As an adult)	THEN (As a child)
1. Who do you go to for health care?	1. Who did you go to for health care?
2. Where do you go for health care?	2. Where did you go for health care?
3. Do you go to a doctor for check ups?	3. Did you go to a doctor for check ups?
4. Do you go to a dentist for check ups?	4. Did you go to a dentist for check ups?

Reading Passage Section 1: Health Professionals

You can make good decisions about your health and your family's health. To make good health decisions, you need to know the following:

- what different **health professionals** do, and
- where to get health care.

People who provide health care services are called health professionals. They work in **hospitals**, **clinics**, and offices. Some health professionals are:



- **Doctors/Physicians.** Doctors **examine you**, **diagnose your problems**, **treat you**, and **prescribe medication**. Doctors supervise other health professionals as they treat **patients**. Some doctors also do **surgery** or **operations**. Some doctors treat only certain patients, such as men, women, or children. Some doctors are **specialists** who treat certain parts of the body. For example, if you have a problem with your foot, you might go to a foot specialist.
- **Physician assistants.** Physician assistants help doctors treat more patients by doing some of the same jobs that doctors do. They can examine you, diagnose your problems, treat you, and prescribe some medications. Physician assistants must be supervised by a doctor.
- **Nurse practitioners.** Nurse practitioners may work on their own or with a doctor. Nurse practitioners do many jobs that doctors and nurses do. They may examine you, diagnose your problems, treat you, and prescribe medication for common problems.
- **Nurses.** Nurses may check **weight**, **pulse**, and **blood pressure** before you see the doctor. They often write down your medical history or problems for the doctor. After you see the doctor, nurses may give you **shots** or do **tests**.